

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 46, further comprising certifying the participants, wherein generating corresponding media objects comprises selectively generating corresponding media objects based on the seal of certification.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 46, wherein embedding dates into the media objects includes embedding expiration dates for the seals into the media objects.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of claim 3, wherein embedding expiration dates includes encrypting the expiration dates.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 46, wherein revoking the media objects includes replacing a media object located on a remote server with a second media object.

Claim 7 (Original): The method of claim 6, wherein the second media object contains an image visually different from an image contained within the replaced media object.

Claim 8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): A computer-readable medium comprising instructions that cause a programmable processor to:

generate corresponding media objects for each of a plurality of online entities, wherein each of the media objects includes media to present a unique seal of certification for each of the entities; and

embed security features into the media objects to prevent misuse of the media objects.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the media objects comprise images, and

wherein the instructions that cause a programmable processor to embed security features into the media objects comprise instructions that cause a programmable processor to embed digital watermarks into the images.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the instructions that cause a programmable processor to embed security features into the media objects comprise instructions that cause a programmable processor to embed expiration dates for the seals into the objects.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the instructions that cause a programmable processor to embed expiration dates comprise instructions that cause a programmable processor to encrypt the expiration dates.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): The computer-readable medium of claim 11, further comprising instructions that cause a programmable processor to:

access a network of computing resources to identify occurrences of the media objects, wherein the media objects are presented as portions of websites;

read the expiration dates embedded within the media objects to determine whether the media objects remain valid; and

revoke each media object that is determined not to remain valid.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): The computer-readable medium of claim 13, wherein the instructions that cause a programmable processor to revoke the media objects comprise instructions that cause a programmable processor to replace a media object located on a remote server with a second media object.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the second media object contains an image visually different from an image contained within the replaced media object.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 46, further comprising:
receiving requests from web browsers executing on client devices for the media objects;
communicating the requested media objects to the requesting web browsers for presentation of the respective seals of certification to users as portions of websites; and
maintaining a log of the requests to detect misuse of the media objects.

Claim 17 (Original): The method of claim 16, wherein maintaining a log of the requests comprises storing a unique identifier for each client device within the request log.

Claim 18 (Original): The method of claim 17, wherein the unique identifier include an Internet Protocol address.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 16, further comprising:
analyzing the request log to detect misuse of the media objects; and
alerting the entities associated with misused media objects of the detected misuse.

Claim 20 (Original): The method of claim 19, wherein analyzing the request log to detect misuse comprises analyzing the request log to detect an unexpected unique identifier.

Claim 21 (Canceled).

Claim 22 (Withdrawn): A system comprising:

a server to generate corresponding media objects for each of a plurality of online entities, wherein each of the media objects includes media to present a unique seal of certification for each of the entities, receive requests from web browsers executing on client devices for the media objects, and communicate the requested media objects to the requesting web browsers for presentation of the respective seals of certification to users as portions of websites; and

a database to store a log of the requests, wherein the server maintains the request log to detect misuse of the media objects.

Claim 23 (Withdrawn): The system of claim 22, wherein the server stores a unique identifier for each client device within the request log.

Claim 24 (Withdrawn): The system of claim 23, wherein the unique identifier include an Internet Protocol address.

Claim 25 (Withdrawn): The system of claim 23, wherein the server analyzes the request log to detect misuse of the media objects, and alerts the entities associated with misused media objects of the detected misuse.

Claim 26 (Withdrawn): The system of claim 25, wherein the server analyzes the request log to detect unexpected unique identifiers.

Claim 27 (Withdrawn): The system of claim 25, wherein the server deletes the misused media objects from a database, and generates new media objects for the associated entities.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 54, further comprising:

storing certification information for each of the participants within the database; and selectively providing the certification information stored within the database for the participant associated with media object to the user via the web browser.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 28, wherein selectively providing the certification information comprises:

retrieving the certification information as a function of a unique identifier provided by the request; and

communicating the certification information to the client device for display to the user.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 28, wherein the participant comprises an online merchant and the information includes a transaction history for the merchant.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 28, further comprising storing a disclosure setting for each of the participants, wherein selectively providing the information includes filtering the information based on the disclosure setting.

Claim 32 (Original): The method of claim 31, further comprising filtering the information based on a universal resource locator (URL) received during the request for the information.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 28, wherein selectively presenting the certification information comprises providing a web page that includes the certification information.

Claim 34 (Withdrawn): A computer-readable medium comprising instructions that cause a programmable processor to:

store information for each of a plurality of online entities within a database;

generate corresponding media objects for each the online entities, wherein each of the media objects includes media to present a unique seal for each of the entities;

communicate a requested one of the media objects to a web browser for presentation of the respective seal to a user as a portion of a website; and

selectively provide the information stored within the database for the entity associated with requested media object to the user via the web browser.

Claim 35 (Withdrawn): The computer-readable medium of claim 34, wherein the instructions that cause a programmable processor to selectively providing the data comprise instructions that cause a programmable processor to:

after communicating the requested media object to the client device, receive a request from the client device to view additional information for the entity corresponding to the requested media object;

retrieve the information as a function of a unique identifier provided by the request; and communicate the information to the client device for display to the user.

Claim 36 (Withdrawn): The computer-readable medium of claim 34, wherein the entity comprises an online merchant and the information includes a transaction history for the merchant.

Claim 37 (Withdrawn): The computer-readable medium of claim 34, further comprising instructions that cause a programmable processor to store a disclosure setting for each entity, and wherein the instructions that cause a programmable processor to selectively provide the information comprise instructions that cause a processor to filter the information based on the disclosure setting.

Claim 38 (Withdrawn): The computer-readable medium of claim 37, further comprising instructions that cause a programmable processor to filter the information based on a universal resource locator (URL) received during the request for the information.

Claim 39 (Withdrawn): The computer-readable medium of claim 34, wherein the instructions that cause a programmable processor to selectively present the information comprise instructions that cause a programmable processor to provide a web page that includes the information.

Claim 40 (Withdrawn): A system comprising:

a database to store certification information for each of a plurality of online entities; and
a server to communicate a requested media objects to a web browser of a client device for presentation to a user as a portion of a website,

wherein the media object represents a seal of certification for a selected one of the entities,

wherein the server selectively provides access to the certification information stored within the database for the selected entity via the web browser.

Claim 41 (Withdrawn): The system of claim 40,

wherein after communicating the requested media object to the client device, the server receives a request from the client device to view additional information for the entity corresponding to the requested media object, and

wherein the server retrieves the information as a function of a unique identifier provided by the request, and communicates the information to the client device for display to the user.

Claim 42 (Withdrawn): The system of claim 40, wherein the entity comprises an online merchant and the information includes a transaction history for the merchant.

Claim 43 (Withdrawn): The system of claim 40, where the server stores a disclosure setting for each entity, and filters the information based on the disclosure setting.

Claim 44 (Withdrawn): The system of claim 43, wherein the server filters the information based on a universal resource locator (URL) received during the request for the information.

Claim 45 (Withdrawn): The system of claim 40, wherein the server provides a web page that includes the information to the user.

Claim 46 (Currently Amended): A method for preventing misuse of electronic seals associated with participants in an online electronic marketplace that is accessed via a computer network and enables participants to buy and sell items, the method comprising:

generating corresponding media objects for each of a plurality of participants in the marketplace, wherein each of the media objects includes media to present a seal of certification for each of the participants as an image;

embedding dates into the media objects;

accessing a network of computing resources to identify occurrences of the media objects, wherein the media objects are presented as portions of websites associated with the online marketplace;

reading the dates embedded within the media objects to determine whether the media objects are valid; and

revoking each media object that is determined not to be valid.

Claim 47 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 46, further comprising certifying the participants,

wherein generating corresponding media objects comprises generating corresponding media objects for each of the participants based on the seal of certification.

Claim 48 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 47, wherein certifying the participants comprises at least one of verifying that a business practice of the participants meets a standard or receiving agreements to participate in online dispute resolution from the participants.

Claim 49 (Original): The method of claim 46, wherein the participants are sellers in the online marketplace.

Claim 50 (Currently Amended): A method for preventing misuse of electronic seals associated with participants in an online electronic marketplace that is accessed via a computer network and enables participants to buy and sell items comprising, the method comprising:

generating corresponding media objects for each of a plurality of participants in the online marketplace, wherein each of the media objects includes media to present a seal of certification for each of the participants as an image;

receiving requests from web browsers executing on client devices for the media objects;

communicating the requested media objects to the requesting web browsers for presentation of the respective seal of certification to users as portions of websites associated with the online marketplace;

maintaining a log of the requests that includes an Internet Protocol address associated with each of the requesting client devices;

analyzing the request log to detect misuse of the media objects;

alerting the participants associated with misused media objects of the detected misuse;

removing the misused media objects from a server; and

generating new media objects for the participants associated with the misused media objects.

Claim 51 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 50, further comprising certifying the participants,

wherein generating corresponding media objects comprises generating corresponding media objects for each of the participants based on the seal of certification.

Claim 52 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 51, wherein certifying the participants comprises at least one of verifying that a business practice of the participants meets a standard, verifying that the participants agree to the standard, or receiving agreements to participate in online dispute resolution from the participants.

Claim 53 (Original): The method of claim 50, wherein the participants are sellers in an online marketplace.

Claim 54 (Currently Amended): A method for selectively providing information associated with participants in an online marketplace that is accessed via a computer network and enables participants to buy and sell items to other participants in the online marketplace, the method comprising:

generating media objects for the participants to present seals for the participants based on information for the participants stored in a database;

communicating a requested one of the media objects to a web browser for presentation of the respective seal to a user as a portion of a website associated with the online marketplace;

after communicating the requested media object to the client device, receiving a request from the client device to view additional the information for the participant corresponding to the requested media object; and

retrieving at least a portion of the information stored in the database for the participant associated with the requested media object as a function of a unique identifier provided by the request.

Claim 55 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 54, further comprising:

verifying that the participants comply with compliance requirements;

storing verification data for the plurality of participants in a database of a seal issuer; and

selectively presenting the seals for display within websites associated with the participants based on the verification data, wherein the seals represent compliance by the participants with the compliance requirements.

Claim 56 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 55, further comprising:

detecting non-compliance with the compliance requirements by one of the participants; and

updating the verification data to revoke the respective seal for the non-compliant participant.

Claim 57 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 54, wherein the participant comprises an online merchant and the information includes a transaction history for the merchant.

Claim 58 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 54, further comprising storing a disclosure setting for each of the participants, wherein selectively providing the information includes filtering the information based on the disclosure setting.

Claim 59 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 58, further comprising filtering the information based on a universal resource locator (URL) received during the request for the information.